

The United States is spending billions of dollars trying to turn Afghanistan and Iraq—both deep in the throes of civil war—into democratic nations while all but abandoning their peaceful post-Soviet neighbors to the north. Turkmenistan is ready for a new beginning, and the West must finally step up to the plate. To do otherwise would waste a historic opportunity and allow yet another case of popular discontent with an illegitimate government to become an anti-Western lost cause.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE NASHVILLE SCRAPPERS

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2007*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, it is with honor and great pride that I recognize and congratulate the Nashville Scrappers of Nashville, AR, whose outstanding teamwork and dedication on the football field earned them a Class 4A Arkansas State Title at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock on December 9, 2006. The Nashville Scrappers embody the spirit of teamwork, determination, and all that defines a champion.

As a parent, I value the important lessons that teamwork teaches our students in pursuit of a lifetime of success. I have long been an advocate of sports and extracurricular activities as they complement academic excellence, inspire leadership, and build character, which better prepare our State's students to face the challenges of the 21st century.

It is a tremendous honor to congratulate the Nashville High School football program on winning the Class 4A Arkansas State Football Championship. I applaud the Nashville Scrappers for their season. This victory is the result of hard work contributed by the players, students, coaching staff, faculty and the community. I salute all who remained focused on this goal and especially the players who rose to the occasion to become State champions. Congratulations Scrappers.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2007*

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 24, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 61, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE DANCE TEAM

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2007*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Tennessee Dance Team, located in my District, for winning their first ever Division IA National title.

On January 15th, 2007, the team competed against 17 other Division IA dance teams at

the Universal Dance Associations College Nationals held at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, FL.

The team was awarded an all expenses paid trip to the national competition after placing third in the qualifying round, based on a two minute video they submitted in October, 2006.

Although they placed 1st in semi-finals, the team knew their competitors would step up their performances in the next round. In the final round, Tennessee gave its strongest performance yet, leaving the crowd in awe and leaving no doubt in the minds of the judges who should receive the National title.

The team defeated the four time National Champions, the Minnesota Golden Gopher Dance Team, by a margin of more than 20 points.

The Tennessee dancers worked intensely to reach this never before attained goal, practicing up to three times a day over their holiday break.

The Tennessee Spirit program is the only program in the country to place in the top five in the Cheerleading, Mascot and Dance divisions.

I would also like to congratulate coaches Kelley Eidenmuller, Valerie Baxter and Spirit Coordinator Joy Postell on their exceptional work with this group of dancers.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a recent article from [utsports.com](http://utsports.com) regarding the University of Tennessee Dance Team's outstanding achievement.

#### TENNESSEE DANCE TEAM CAPTURES FIRST NATIONAL CROWN

ORLANDO, Jan. 14, 2007.—Tennessee's long elusive national crown finally found its resting place in Knoxville as Tennessee's Dance team captured its first national crown in commanding fashion in the land of dreams and wishes.

At the Milk House in Orlando, Florida, Tennessee put on a dominating performance before a packed house at the Wide World of Sports Complex. Performing to "Your House" by Alisa Morissette, the dance team performed to an Acapella version of the song and simply rocked the house.

Co-Head Coach Kellie Edenmueller said this team knew this was the material it would take to bring home the national championship.

"We knew from the moment we put this together it had the potential to bring us a national championship. Our girls worked tirelessly and put together a great performance."

Tennessee was not without their fans as more than 150 made their way to the Milk House and turned the old can into a home away from home. It was something this program has sought for almost a decade.

"It is finally a breath of fresh air to win this national title, both from a coaching standpoint and a coordinator of trying to raise the bar," said UT Spirit Coordinator Joy Postell. "Repeatedly these squads have come here and have left disappointed because they did not achieve their goal. To finally achieve the goal, to represent your university and to win the title is breathtaking and ecstatic."

"The feeling I have and pride I have that UT has allowed me to have a phenomenal program to reach out to so many spirit athletes. Not just athletics but in every aspect and to bring notoriety to this university. At Tennessee we work together as a team and cheer, dance, and mascot are all emphasized

as being winners and achievers. Everyone of these teams is very supportive of the other. I am very fortunate to have the tools the university provides me to succeed. For us to reach the top five in every category is both not just a personal goal but a goal of every athlete in this program."

Tennessee was the only program in the nation to place in the top five in the country in Mascot (5th place), Cheer (4th place) and dance again in the Hip-Hop division with a 5th place finish.

Tonight was truly magical and the young women made it happen.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE ARKANSAS HIGH RAZORBACKS

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2007*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, it is with honor and great pride that I recognize and congratulate the Arkansas High School Razorbacks of Texarkana, AR, whose outstanding teamwork and dedication on the football field earned them a Class 6A Arkansas State Title at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock on November 25, 2006. The Arkansas High Razorbacks embody the spirit of teamwork, determination, and all that defines a champion.

As a parent, I value the important lessons that teamwork teaches our students in pursuit of a lifetime of success. I have long been an advocate of sports and extracurricular activities as they complement academic excellence, inspire leadership, and build character, which better prepare our state's students to face the challenges of the 21st century.

It is a tremendous honor to congratulate the Arkansas High School football program on winning the Class 6A Arkansas State Football Championship. I applaud the Arkansas High School Razorbacks for their season. This victory is the result of hard work contributed by the players, students, coaching staff, faculty and the community. I salute all who remained focused on this goal and especially the players who rose to the occasion to become State champions. Congratulations Razorbacks!

#### TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN AND KIDS CANCER CONNECTION

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2007*

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection, located in the 30th Congressional District, which I represent.

Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa proclaimed the week of December 11, 2006, as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week" in the city of Los Angeles. I am pleased to join Mayor Villaraigosa in thanking Steven Firestein, the founder of American Cancer Fund for Children and its sister organization, Kids Cancer Connection, for his wonderful work in assisting children with cancer.

More than 12 years ago, Steven began the American Cancer Fund for Children to provide